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23 April 1956

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The NIS Program

The National Intelligence Survey Program, established by NSCID No. 3, is concerned with the collection, coordination, and publication of basic intelligence on all foreign countries and areas needed for high level operational and strategic planning, national estimates, and policy determination. This program has been in full operation for a period of seven and three-quarters years, and what has been done during that period in fulfillment of the NIS mission is set forth graphically in the accompanying tables and charts. Essentially, nearly 60% of the total world coverage has been completed, most of which is on areas of high priority for planning and estimate purposes. Approximately 2,700 NIS sections have been published. NIS Gazetteers have been produced on 85 of the 103 NIS land areas, and comprise nearly two million geographic names. An active maintenance program is underway on published elements on both the NIS and the Gazetteers.

During 1955 the NIS Program continued to increase in stature as the means of providing the basic intelligence on critical world areas required by the Government in national security and foreign policy consideration. As reported by the Task Force on Intelligence Activities under the chairmanship of General Mark W. Clark, "The National Intelligence Survey is an invaluable publication which provides the essential elements of basic intelligence on all areas of the world. While its production involves an extensive and expensive effort, all members of the Intelligence community derive an immediate benefit from the contributions they make to it and profit from the final product. There always will be a continuing requirement for keeping this survey up to date."

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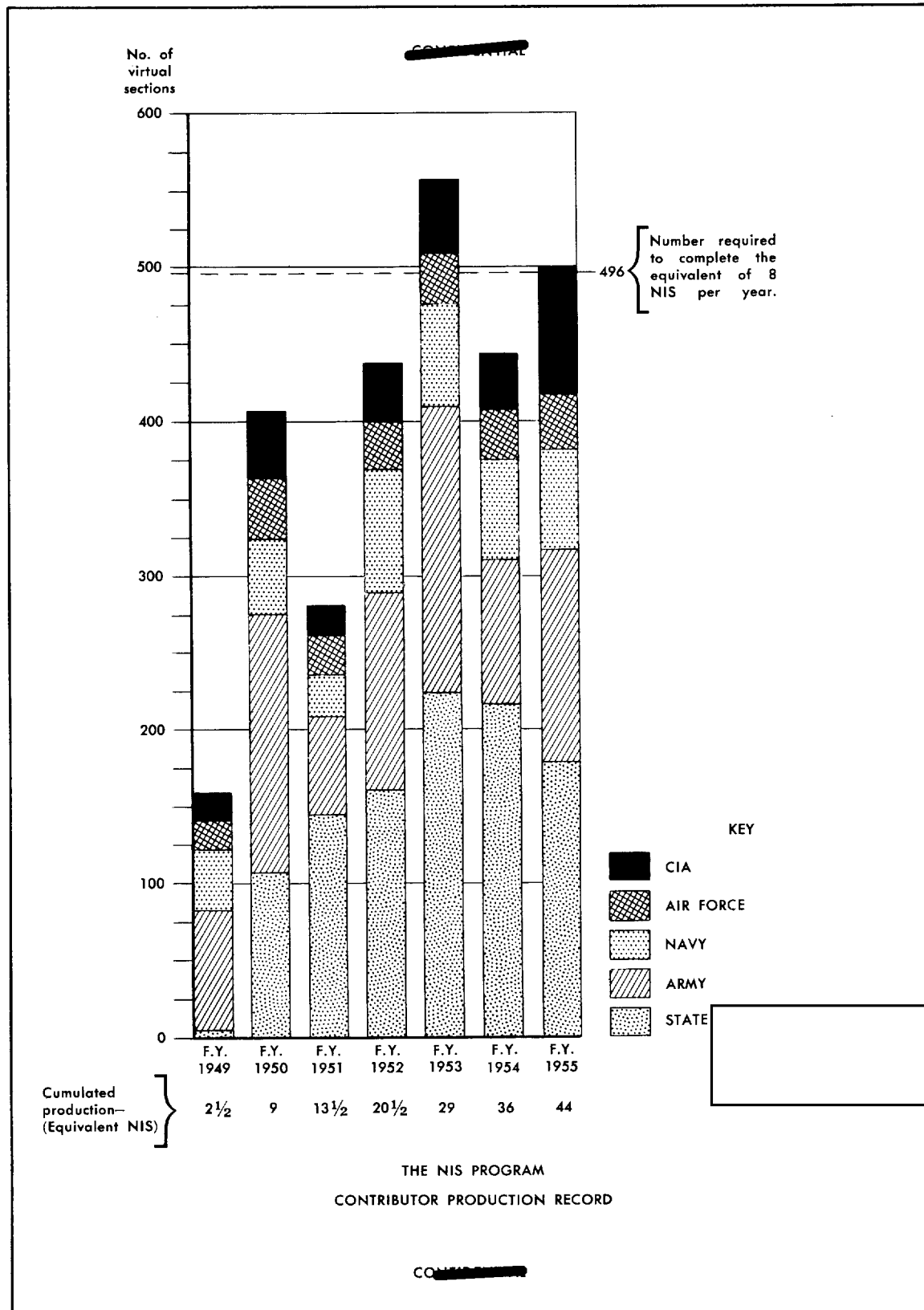
23 April 1956

The NIS Program over-all is progressing on schedule in accordance with current priorities established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with increased emphasis on production of the highly important Chapter I (Brief) and the maintenance revisions of published NIS.

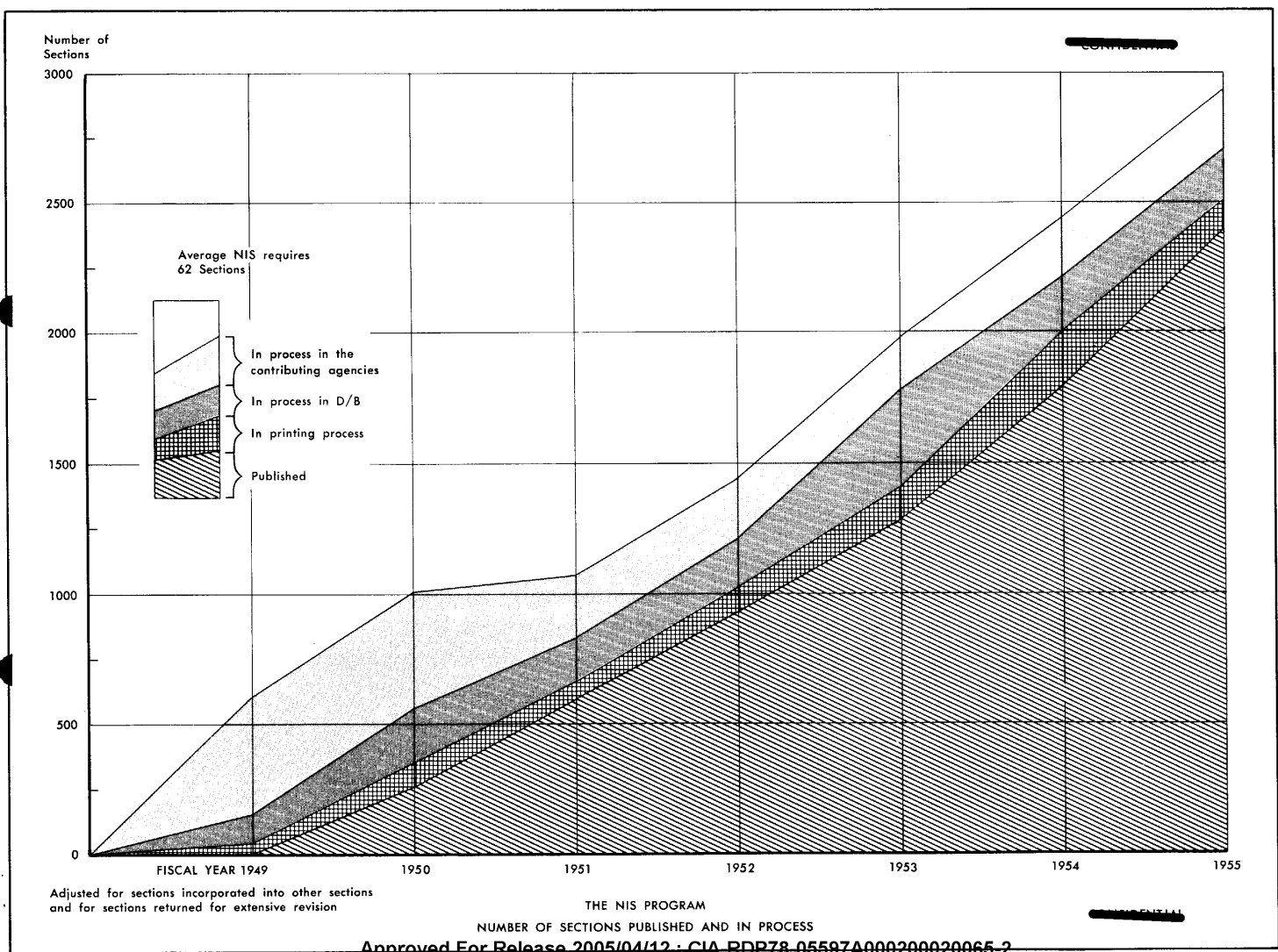
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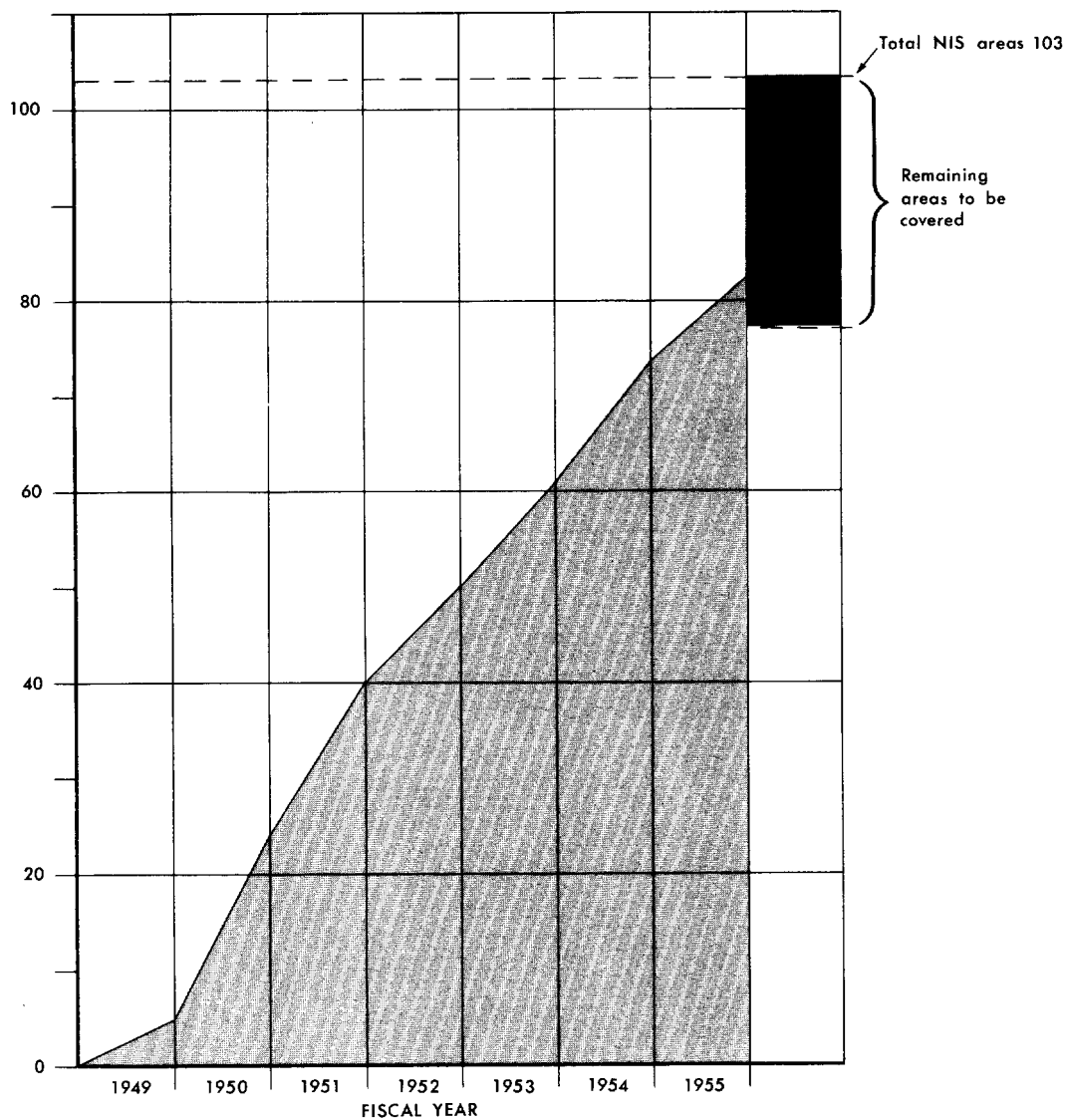
1. NIS Production Status, 5 World Areas, 31 Mar 56
2. Percent Completion All Nis Areas, 31 Mar 56
3. Contributor Production Record FY-49 thru FY-55
4. Number Sections Published and in Process FY-49-55
5. Cumulated Production of Gazetteers FY-49-55
6. Map showing Status of NIS Production 30 Jun 55

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THE NIS PROGRAM
CUMULATED PRODUCTION OF GAZETTEERS
(Including 5 revisions)

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C O F Y

15 February 1956

National Intelligence Surveys

I attach particular importance to maintaining adequate support of the inter-departmental program of basic intelligence production under the National Intelligence Survey. The significance of this program was noted by the Clark Committee in its recent report to the Congress as follows:

"The National Intelligence Survey is an invaluable publication which provides the essential elements of basic intelligence on all areas of the world. While its production involves an extensive and expensive effort, all members of the Intelligence community derive an immediate benefit from the contributions they make to it and profit from the final product. There always will be a continuing requirement for keeping this survey up to date."

The NIS Program has been in operation for some eight years, during which considerably more than half of the total world coverage has been completed. Currently the program is progressing on schedule in accordance with priorities established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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Distribution:

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Orig & 1 - DD/I, Attn:

1 - OBI "NIS Program - Presentation to Congress"

In same file, see also DRAFT Copy, 15 Feb 56 -- not used.

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